REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated August 27, 2003. Claims 1-9, 11-19, 21-29, and 31-41 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-9, 11-19, 21-29, and 31-41 have been rejected. Claims 1, 3, 5-7, 11, 16, 21, 23, 25-27, and 33-41 have been amended to further define the scope and novelty of the present invention, as well as to correct typographical and grammatical errors. Support for the amendments to the claims is found throughout the specification, and in particular, in Figure 11, on page 7, line 1, to page 8, line 3, and on page 10, lines 1-6. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been presented. Claims 31 and 32 have been canceled. Accordingly, claims 1-9, 11-19, 21-29, and 33-41 are pending. For the reasons set forth more fully below, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims as presented are allowable. Consequently, reconsideration, allowance, and passage to issue are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102

The Examiner has stated:

> Claims 1-9, 11-19, 21-29, and 31, 32, and 35-41 are rejected under U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Jaaskelainen, Jr. (US #6,002,397).
> As per independent claim 1, Jaaskelainen, Jr. teaches a method for displaying hidden information on a display screen, the display screen displaying a plurality of application windows, a first window of the plurality of application windows obscuring the hidden information within a second window of the plurality of application windows (fig. 2A; from col. 4, lines 64-67 through col. 5, lines 1-12) comprising the steps of:
> creating a viewpoint as a topmost window in response to a first user interaction (*window hatch 110*; fig. 2B; col. 5, lines 12-27 and lines 35-41);
> associating the second application window with the viewport in response to a second user interaction; displaying the hidden information in the viewport whenever the viewport is positioned over the hidden information (fig. 2B; col. 5, lines 26-35);
> capturing at least a porti n of the hidden information displayed in the viewport as static information in the viewport (hidden information captured in window hatch 110 of fig. 2B is static)...

Jaaskelainen, Jr. teaches a user can move the window hatch 110 (fig. 2B) to reveal different hidden information by defining new hatch areas (col. 5, lines 25-35 and lines 50-55). As a result, movement of the hidden information within the s cond window (104 of fig. 2B) is influenced by the movement of the hatch areas. ...

According to Jaaskelainen, Jr., col. 6, lines 6-13, multiple window hatches can be created easily at a particular position (e.g. at the position of window hatch 110 of fig. 2B) to help the user to look through different window hatches to reveal different hidden information in the obscured, underlying windows (windows 104 and 106 of fig. 2B and fig. 2C). Since multiple hatches can be created at the same position, they can be treated as a single window hatch having different modes, in which each mode is responsible for each associated obscured, underlying window. Therefore, the multimode window hatch above may be associated with any obscured, underlying window, and that association may be easily changed by the user, by switching between different modes, so that the multi-mode window hatch may be associated alternately with any of the obscured window.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejections. For the Examiner's convenience, amended independent claim 1 is reproduced in its entirety herein below.

Claim 1

1.   (currently amended) A method for displaying hidden information on a display screen, the display screen displaying a plurality of application windows, a first window of the plurality of application windows obscuring the hidden information within a second window of the plurality of application windows, the method comprising:

a)   creating a viewport as a topmost window in response to a first user interaction, wherein the viewport is moveable to any point on the display screen independent from the plurality of application windows;

b)   associating the second application window with the viewport in response to a second user interaction; and

c)   displaying the hidden information in the viewport whenever the viewport is positioned over the hidden information.

The present invention provides a method for displaying hidden information on a display screen. The display screen displays a plurality of application windows, where a first window of the plurality of application windows obscures the hidden information within a second window of the plurality of application windows. The method comprises creating a viewport as a topmost window in response to a first user interaction. The viewport is moveable to any point on the display screen independent from the plurality of application windows. The method further

comprises associating the second application window with the viewport in response to a second user interaction. The method further comprises displaying the hidden information in the viewport whenever the viewport is positioned over the hidden information.

Through the use of the present invention a user can simultaneously view information from multiple applications where one or more application windows are partially or wholly covering needed information in an underlying application window. Furthermore, the user can also view application windows that are not directly underneath the primary application window, but are in an inactive state. This provides the user with the ability to quickly access needed information without having to undergo the time consuming process of resizing, minimizing, or rearranging desktop windows (Summary).

Jaaskelainen discloses a hatch in a window. The hatch is derived from a relative location within the window. When the hatch is created, a portion of the window that is delimited by the hatch disappears, revealing a desired underlying window. Accordingly, the hatch functions as a hole in the top window on top. Multiple invocations of a hatch operation bore through lower, underlying windows until the desired underlying window, which is at a certain fixed depth, is reached. Thus, portions of the desired underlying window show through the hatch, while the top window remains in view. The hatch can be adjusted in size and shape. The underlying window can be repositioned so that the desired information shows through the hatch. When the top window moves, the hatch moves with it. Various navigation and information cues are available to assist the user in understanding the relationship of the various windows and correctly positioning the window hatch (Abstract, column 5, lines 18-41, and column 12, lines 30-42).

However, Jaaskelainen does not teach or suggest the viewport, "wherein the viewport is moveable to any point on the display screen independent from the plurality of application windows," as recited in amended independent claim 1. Instead, Jaaskelainen teaches a hatch with different functionality from the viewport of the present invention. Referring to Figure 11 of the present invention, the viewport can be moved to any point on the display screen independent from the plurality of application windows, i.e., the plurality of application windows can remain stationary. In contrast, referring to Figures 2B and 2C of Jaaskelainen, the hatch remains fixed within the window in which the hatch is defined. The hatch functions as a hole in the window and cannot be moved independent from the window because the hatch is derived from a relative location within the window (column 5, lines 18-41). The hatch and the window in which the hatch is defined must be moved in concert (column 12, lines 30-42).

This distinction is important because the viewport of the present invention allows the user to conveniently move the viewport to different parts of the active window or to the side or corner of the display screen without having to also move the application windows. This allows the user to simultaneously view information from multiple applications where one or more application windows are partially or wholly covering needed information in an underlying application window. Furthermore, the user can also view application windows that are not directly underneath the primary application window, but are in an inactive state. Because the viewport can be freely moved around the display screen independent of the application windows, the relative layer position of the application windows can change without affecting the visibility of the information in the viewport.

Jaaskelainen does not provide these benefits, because while the hatch of Jaaskelainen can be moved, the user is burdened by having to move the window in which the hatch is defined. Furthermore, if the user wants to move the hatch of Jaaskelainen to another location within its application window or wants to view a different underlying application window, a separate hatch must be derived. Furthermore, if the window in which the hatch of Jaaskelainen is located is subsequently covered by another window, the hatch will be hidden until its window brought back on top or until a new hatch is created in the other window. Because the viewport as recited in amended independent claim 1 can be moved to different locations on the display screen independent from the application windows, the viewport of the present invention avoids these problems. Accordingly, the viewport of the present invention provides the user with the ability to quickly access needed information without having to undergo the time consuming process of resizing, minimizing, or rearranging desktop windows, or creating new hatches as is required by Jaaskelainen.

Therefore, Jaaskelainen does not teach or suggest the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 1. Therefore, claim 1 is allowable over Jaaskelainen.

Independent claims 11, 21, 33-35, and 41

Amended independent claims 11, 21, 33-35, and 41 recite a viewport, "wherein the viewport is moveable to any point on the display screen independent from the plurality of application windows." As described above, with respect to claim 1, Jaaskelainen does not teach or suggest this feature. Accordingly, the above-articulated arguments related to claim 1 apply

with equal force to claims 11, 21, 33-35, and 41. Therefore, claims 11, 21, 33-35, and 41 are allowable over Jaaskelainen for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Remaining dependent claims

Dependent claims 2-9, 12-19, and 22-29 depend from amended independent claims 1, 11, and 21, respectively. Accordingly, the above-articulated arguments related to claims 1, 11, and 21 apply with equal force to claims 2-9, 12-19, and 22-29, which are thus allowable over the cited references for at least the same reasons as claims 1, 11, and 21.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner has stated:

> **Claims 33-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jaaskelainen, Jr. (US #6,002,397) in view of Diedrichsen et al ("Diedrichsen", US #5,920,313)...**

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejections. Amended independent claims 33 and 34 recite a viewport, "wherein the viewport is moveable to any point on the display screen independent from the plurality of application windows." As described above, with respect to claim 1, Jaaskelainen does not teach or suggest this feature. Accordingly, the above-articulated arguments related to claim 1 apply with equal force to claims 33 and 34 and these claims are thus allowable over Jaaskelainen for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Independent claims 33 and 34

Amended independent claims 33 and 34 recite a viewport, "wherein the viewport is moveable to any point on the display screen independent from the plurality of application windows." As described above, with respect to amended independent claim 1, Jaaskelainen does not teach or suggest this feature. Accordingly, the above-articulated arguments related to amended independent claim 1 apply with equal force to claims 33 and 34. Therefore, claims 33 and 34 are allowable over Jaaskelainen for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Independent claim 36

Amended independent claim 36 is provided below for ease of review.

36.   (currently amended) A method for displaying hidden information on a display screen, the display screen displaying a plurality of application windows, a first window of the plurality of application windows obscuring the hidden information within a second window of the plurality of application windows, the method comprising:
        a)   creating a viewport as a topmost window in response to a first user interaction;
        b)   associating the second application window with the viewport in response to a second user interaction; and
        c)   displaying the hidden information in the viewport whenever the viewport is positioned over the hidden information, wherein movement of the viewport can be used to scroll information within the second window without making the second window active.

Jaaskelainen does not teach or suggest the viewport, "wherein movement of the viewport can be used to scroll information within the second window without making the second window active," as recited in amended independent claim 36. Instead, Jaaskelainen teaches the above-described hatch, which functions as a hole in a window. When the window in which the hatch is defined moves, the hatch also moves. However, the movement of the hatch in Jaaskelainen cannot be used to scroll the information in the underlying window. Instead, the information in the underlying window would have to be scrolled in a conventional manner. That is, the

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underlying window would have to be made active and moved to the top on the display screen to be scrolled. The needed information not shown in that window can then be scrolled into view in a conventional manner such as with the use of a scroll bar. The scrolled information can then be viewed via the hatch once the window with the hatch is again made active, moved to the top of the display screen, and positioned so that its hatch is over the scrolled information. The viewport of the present invention avoids these time consuming steps by allowing movement of the viewport to scroll the information of the viewport's associated application window without having to make the associated application window active. Therefore, Jaaskelainen does not teach or suggest the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 36, and claim 36 is allowable over Jaaskelainen.

Independent claims 37-40

Amended independent claims 37-40 recite a viewport, "wherein movement of the viewport can be used to scroll information within the second window without making the second window active." As described above, with respect to amended independent claim 36, Jaaskelainen does not teach or suggest this feature. Accordingly, the above-articulated arguments related to amended independent claim 36 apply with equal force to claims 37-40. Therefore, claims 37-40 are allowable over Jaaskelainen for at least the same reasons as claim 36.
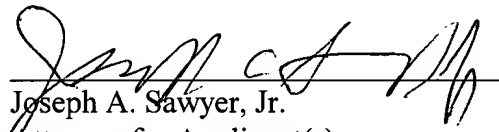
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that claims 1-9, 11-19, 21-29, and 33-41 are patentable over the cited references. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the claims as now presented.

Applicants' attorney believes that this application is in condition for allowance. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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